Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering a network, comprising:

selecting a first trunk for recovery, the first trunk being associated with a first node;

allowing the first trunk to recover;

selecting further trunks for recovery up to a predetermined number of trunks at [[a given]] any one time until each trunk associated with the first node is selected for recovery;

determining a sequence for recovering each of a plurality of nodes in the network;

determining message processing time surges at each of the plurality of nodes due to recovery of the nodes; and

limiting, for at least one of the plurality of nodes, an overload period due to the message processing time surges for staggering successive node recoveries.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including selecting the first trunk so as to form the largest possible subnetwork.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including randomly selecting the first trunk from a plurality of trunks associated with the first node that would form the largest possible subnetwork.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including selecting further trunks so as to form the largest possible subnetwork.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including selecting a second node for recovery.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, further including
selecting a first trunk associated with the second node for recovery;
allowing the first trunk of the second node to recover;
selecting further trunks associated with the second node for recovery up to a second predetermined number of trunks at a given time until each trunk associated with the second node is selected for recovery.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[9]] 1, where the predetermined duration ranges from about one second to about fifty seconds.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 8, further including~~ A method for recovering a network, comprising:
selecting a first trunk for recovery, the first trunk being associated with a first node;
allowing the first trunk to recover;
selecting further trunks for recovery up to a predetermined number of trunks at any one time until each trunk associated with the first node is selected for recovery;
determining a sequence for recovering each of the plurality of nodes in the network;
determining message processing time surges at each of the plurality of nodes due to recovery of the nodes; and
preventing the message processing time surges from overlapping.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering a network, comprising:

determining a sequence for recovering [[each node]] nodes in the network; [[and]]

determining a respective time interval between initiating recovery of the network node;

determining message processing time surges at each of the nodes in the network; and

limiting, for at least some of the plurality of nodes, overload periods due to message processing time surges at the nodes for staggering successive node recoveries.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) ~~The method according to claim 13, further including~~ A method for recovering a network, comprising:

determining a sequence for recovering each node in the network; and

determining a respective time interval between initiating recovery of the network nodes;

determining message processing time surges at each node in the network; and

preventing overlapping overload periods due to processing time surges at the nodes.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method according to claim 12, further including selecting a first trunk associated with a first node in the node recovery sequence.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, further including selecting up to N trunks associated with the first node for simultaneous recovery after the first trunk has recovered.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 17~~, A method for recovering a network, comprising:

determining a sequence for recovering each node in the network;

determining a respective time interval between initiating recovery of the network nodes;

selecting a first trunk associated with a first node in the node recovery sequence; and

selecting up to N trunks associated with the first node for simultaneous recovery after the first trunk has recovered,

wherein N ranges from ~~about~~ two to ~~about~~ four.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the N trunks are selected so as to form a subnetwork that is as large as possible.